REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action dated December 28, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire March 28, 2008.

Applicant addresses the objection to FIG. 2

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has amended FIG. 2 with the designation "Prior Art". Applicant requests entry of this amended figure, which is provided herewith. Based on this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to FIG. 2.

Applicant addresses the objection to the abstract

Applicant submits herewith a new abstract that describes the invention as a whole. Based on this new abstract, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the previous abstract.

Claims 50, 53, 57, and 61 are patentable over Jayaraman, Iwamura, and JP518

Claim 50 recites (emphasis added):

> A method of minimizing collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system using an access point, the method comprising:
>
> sensing the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;
>
> allocating a start time slot list having at least one unique start time slot during which the client may begin transmitting;
>
> transmitting the start time slot list to the client; and
>
> receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission beginning only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,

wherein allocating includes:

assigning at least one pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot.

Applicant respectfully submits that Jayaraman, Iwamura, and JP518, even when combined, fail to disclose or suggest the recited assigning. The Examiner admits that Jayaraman teaches nothing about a pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot.

To remedy this deficiency of Jayaraman, the Examiner cites Iwamura. Specifically, the Examiner cites col. 11, lines 2-4 of Iwamura as teaching assigning at least one pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot. Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization. In this passage, Iwamura merely teaches that during arbitration for a time slot, transmissions having higher priority win over transmission of lower priority. Thus, this passage has nothing to do with **assigning the recited high-priority and low-priority slots**. Therefore, Iwamura does not remedy the deficiency of Jayaraman with respect to the recited pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot.

Noting that Iwamura teaches nothing about the pair of slots being substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot, the Examiner cites JP518 to remedy this deficiency of Iwamura. JP518, as much as can be understood by the translated abstract and drawings, also does not teach the recited assigning. Specifically, it appears that JP518 divides the time slots for uplink (U) and downlink (D) circuits. For example, in FIG. 1, a plurality of uplink time slots 1-N are

assigned, which are followed by a plurality of downlink time slots 1-M. Notably, **time slots for uplink/downlink circuits do not suggest high-priority/low-priority time slots**. Thus, the abstract of JP518 teaches nothing about a pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes **a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot**. Moreover, note that JP518 teaches that the width between corresponding downlink/uplink time slots remains substantially equal (see FIG. 1 and Abstract (i.e. "mutual intervals between allocated time slots become relatively equal") of JP518). Therefore, JP518 also teaches nothing about the slots being equally displaced in time from a center start time slot (see, e.g. FIG. 4).

Because the cited references, even when combined, fail to disclose or suggest **assigning at least one pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot**, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 50.

Claim 53 recites (emphasis added):

> A method of minimizing collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system using an access point, the method comprising:
>
> sensing the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;
>
> allocating a start time slot list having at least one unique start time slot during which the client may begin transmitting;
>
> transmitting the start time slot list to the client; and
>
> receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission beginning only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,
>
> **wherein the start time slot list includes a high-priority time slot and a low-priority time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center time slot.**

Therefore, Claim 53 is patentable for substantially the same reasons presented for Claim 50. Based on those reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 53.

Claim 57 depends from Claim 53 and therefore is patentable for at least the reasons presented for Claim 53. Based on those reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 57.

Claim 61 recites (emphasis added):

> An access point that minimizes collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system, the access point comprising:
>
> a client sensor for detecting the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;
>
> a start time slot allocator for allocating a start time slot list having one or more unique start time slots during which the client may begin to transmit;
>
> an access point transmitter for transmitting the start time slot list to a client receiver; and
>
> an access point receiver for receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission being received only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,
>
> wherein the start time slot allocator comprises:
>
> **a start time slot generator for generating at least one pair of a high-priority time slot and a low-priority start time slot, the high-priority time slot and the low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot.**

Therefore, Claim 61 is patentable for substantially the same reasons presented for Claim 50. Based on those reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 61.

CONCLUSION

Claims 50, 53, 57, and 61 are pending in the present application. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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